

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A dental impression tray which can be made flexible after insertion in the patient's mouth. A joint or area of flexibility in the tray's posterior is reinforced prior to intraoral placement by a removable wire running through hooks in the tray's rim. Removing the wire after the patient bites 5 imparts flexibility to the joint, and then the tray's frame becomes less flexible once the impression material cures. The tray's initial rigidity facilitates handling, and its subsequent flexibility reduces the frame's plastic memory, thereby reducing springback distortions.